

these. Had I indulged in a wish in what manner they should dispose of me, it would precisely have coincided with what they have done. (To James Sullivan, 1797. F. VII., 11.6.)

VICE-PRESIDENCY.—I thank you for your congratulation on the public call on me to undertake the second office in the United States, but still more for the justice you do me in viewing as I do the escape from the first; I have no[^] wish to meddle again in public affairs, being happier at home than I can be anywhere else. Still less do I wish to engage in an office where it would be impossible to satisfy either friends or foes. If I am to act, however, a more tranquil and unoffending station could not have been found for me, no one so analogous to the dispositions of my mind. It will give me philosophical evenings in the winter and rural days in summer. (To Benjamin Rush, 1797. F. VII, 114.)

VICE-PRESIDENT.—As to duty, the Constitution will know me (as Vice-President) only as the member of a Legislative body; and its principle is that of a separation of Legislative, Executive and Judiciary functions, except in cases specified. If this principle be not expressed in direct terms, yet it is clearly the spirit of the Constitution, and it ought to be so commented and acted on by every friend of free government. (To James Madison, 1797. F. VII., 108.)

WAR.—I do not recollect in all the animal kingdom a single species but man which is eternally and systematically engaged in the destruction of its own species. What is called civilization seems to have no other effect on him than to teach him to pursue the principle of *bellum omnium in omnia* on a larger scale, and, in place of the little contests of tribe against tribe, to engage all the quarters of the earth in the same work of destruction. When we add to this that as the other species of animals the lions and tigers are mere lambs compared with man as a destroyer, we must conclude that it is in man alone that nature has been able to find a sufficient barrier against the too great nullification of other animals and of man himself, an equilibrating power against the fecundity of generation. (To James Mad-